CLAIMS

1. A device enabling a printer to print a page with a desired design, comprising:

association means for associating an image area in a page layout containing the image area disposed on a page, and a specified image; and

print job file creating means for creating, on the basis of the association, a print job file that renders a print job for printing a page on which the specified image is applied to the image area.

2. The device according to claim 1, wherein, in response to a user request, the association means associate the name of a file of the page layout and the name of an image file of an image desired by the user.

3. The device according to claim 1, wherein the device is a digital camera and the association means perform the association during photography.

4. The device according to claim 3, wherein the device further comprises:

page layout display means for displaying the page layout on a viewfinder or display device; and

camera visual field display means that allow a user to view the visual field of a digital camera via an image area of a page layout displayed on the viewfinder or the display device,

wherein the association means associate a page layout displayed on the viewfinder or display device and an image file of the photograph taken.

5. A printer, comprising:

means for acquiring a print job file representing a print job for printing a page on which an image is associated with an image area in a page layout containing the image area disposed on the page ; and

printing means that perform printing on the basis of the print job file thus acquired.

6. The printer according to claim 5, further comprising:

storing means on which the layout file describing the page layout is stored.

7. The printer according to claim 5, wherein the layout file describing the page layout, and the print job file are both supplied from the outside.

8. The printer according to claim 5, wherein:

the print job file has a plurality of image areas which the page layout comprises and association information for placing images in the plurality of image areas; and

the printing means print a page on which images are disposed in each of the plurality of image areas on the basis of the association information.

9. The printer according to claim 5, wherein:

a plurality of layout description sections are contained in the print job file, and each layout description section contains layout identification information serving to identify a layout file describing the page layout, and image identification information serving to identify an image file of an image associated with an image area of the page layout; and

the printing means print a page on which the image is disposed on the basis of the descriptive content for each of the layout description sections.

10. The printer according to claim 5, wherein:

the print job file contains one or more items of file identification information serving to identify each of one or more data files, and a specified code, and the one or more items of file identification information is(are) contained in a predetermined range within the print job file; and,

upon detecting the specified code, the printing means handle a data file, which is identified from a predetermined file identification information item among one or more file identification information items within the predetermined range, as a layout file representing the page layout, and handle a data file, which is identified from another file identification information item, as the image file of the image.

11. A print system having a printer, comprising:

association means for associating an image area in a page layout containing the image area disposed on a page, and a specified image;

print job file creating means for creating, on the basis of the association,

a print job file that renders a print job for printing a page on which the specified image is applied to the image area; and

a printer that performs printing on the basis of the print job file.

12. A computer program allowing a computer to execute the steps of:

associating an image area in a page layout containing the image area disposed on a page, and a specified image; and

creating, on the basis of the association, a print job file that renders a print job for printing a page on which the specified image is applied to the image area.

13. A method enabling a printer to print a page with a desired design, comprising the steps of:

associating an image area in a page layout containing the image area disposed on a page, and a specified image; and

creating, on the basis of the association, a print job file that renders a print job for printing a page on which the specified image is applied to the image area.

14. A printing method, comprising the steps of:

acquiring a print job file representing a print job for printing a page on which an image is associated with an image area in a page layout containing the image area disposed on the page ; and

performing printing on the basis of the print job file.

15. A data structure of a print job file that can be parsed by a printer,

comprising:

layout identification information serving to identify a layout file defining a given page layout containing one or more image areas; and

image identification information serving to identify an image file of a specified image.

16. The data structure according to claim 15, wherein the image area and image identification information are associated.

17. The data structure according to claim 15 or 16, comprising a plurality of items of image identification information.

18. The data structure according to claim 15, wherein an identifier, which indicates a break for each page, and one or more items of image identification information that is(are) associated with the image areas of each page, are matched with respect to a single item of layout identification information.

19. The data structure according to claim 15, wherein there is only ever one item of layout identification information.

20. The data structure according to claim 15, wherein a plurality of items of layout identification information is included.

21. The data structure according to claim 15, further comprising a

description relating to printing conditions desired by a user.

22. The data structure according to claim 15, wherein at least one of the page layout and the print job file is a file that is described by means of a text file or Markup language.

23. The data structure according to claim 15, wherein:

a plurality of layout description sections are included;

each layout description section contains the layout identification information, and image identification information for an image associated with an image area of a page layout represented by a layout file that is identified from the layout identification information; and

a printer is thus enabled to print a page on which an image is disposed on the basis of the descriptive content of each of the layout description sections.

24. A data structure of a print job file that can be parsed by a printer, comprising:

a specified code; and

one or more items of file identification information serving to identify each of one or more data files,

wherein the specified code allows a printer that detects the specified code to handle a data file that is identified from a predetermined file identification information item among the one or more file identification information items as a layout file representing the page layout, and to handle a data file that is identified from another

file identification information item as the image file of the image.

25. A data structure for a print job file that can be parsed by a printer, comprising:

layout identification information for a layout file of a given page layout containing one or more image areas, in which a decorative part image is associated with a predetermined location of this page layout; and

image identification information serving to identify an image file of a specified image.

26. A system, comprising:

a data source that outputs a print job file; and

a job file acquisition device for acquiring the print job file from the data source,

wherein the print job file contains layout identification information serving to identify a layout file defining a given page layout containing an image area, and image identification information serving to identify an image file of a specified image; and

the job file acquisition device obtains and parses the print job file that is output by the data source and acquires and saves the layout file that is identified from the layout identification information contained in the print job file, as well as the image file that is identified from the image identification information contained in the print job file.

27. The system according to claim 26, characterized in that:

the data source is a digital camera;

the job file acquisition device is a printer; and

the printer prints an image corresponding with the acquired image file in accordance with a page layout designated by the layout file thus acquired.

28. A method comprising the steps of:

outputting, from a data source, a print job file containing layout identification information serving to identify a layout file defining a given page layout containing an image area and image identification information serving to identify an image file of a specified image;

acquiring the print job file from the data source; and

parsing the acquired print job file, and acquiring and saving the layout file that is identified from the layout identification information contained in the print job file, as well as the image file that is identified from the image identification information contained in the print job file.

29. A data source device that is capable of communicating with a job file acquisition device capable of acquiring a print job file, the print job file containing layout identification information serving to identify a layout file defining a given page layout containing an image area, and image identification information serving to identify an image file of a specified image, the data source device comprising:

means for outputting a print job file to the job file acquisition device; and

means enabling the job file acquisition device to acquire and parse the

print job file thus output and to acquire and save a layout file that is identified from the layout identification information contained in the print job file, as well as an image file that is identified from the image identification information contained in the print job file.

30. A job file acquisition device that is capable of communicating with a data source on which a print job file is saved, the print job file containing layout identification information serving to identify a layout file defining a given page layout containing an image area, and image identification information serving to identify an image file of a specified image, the job file acquisition device comprising:

means for acquiring the print job file that is output from the data source; and

means for parsing the print job file thus acquired and for acquiring and saving a layout file that is identified from the layout identification information contained in the print job file, as well as an image file that is identified from the image identification information contained in the print job file.

31. A method for acquiring a print job file containing layout identification information serving to identify a layout file defining a given page layout containing an image area, and image identification information serving to identify an image file of a specified image, comprising:

a step in which a print command device proactively transmits the print job file to a job file acquisition device; and

a step in which the job file acquisition device proactively acquires a layout file and image file from a data source on the basis of the print job file thus received

from the print command device.